

S-348                      Eighteenth and nineteenth centuries  
Thornton  
Princess Anne vicinity  
private

"Thornton" farm is situated on a high bank on the north side of the Manokin River west of Princess Anne. Patented in 1662 to William Thorne, the main tract encompassed six-hundred acres. The architectural survivals on the modern "Thornton" farm date to the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, but located in the middle of a plowed fields is a small cemetery that contains two of the oldest grave markers in Somerset County. The large sandstone table marker was crafted for Alexander Brown, who inherited "Thornton" from Colonel David Brown around 1698. The tombstone bears the date 1712 and has an elaborately carved coat of arms. Also located in the cemetery is an anomalous marker for Captain John Blaney, born in Charleston, Massachusetts. Blaney died on January 5, 1715. The most remarkable aspect of this slate tombstone is the New England type carving that decorates the headstone as well as the footstone. A death skull flanked by wings tops the stone, and stars set in a circle head the side panels. Down each side are breast motifs set between leaves.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thornton

and/or common

### 2. Location

street &amp; number Thornton End of Farm Lane off 363, Deal Island Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Princess Anne ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Paul Twining

street &amp; number Thornton Farm telephone no.:

city, town Princess Anne state and zip code MD 21853

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street &amp; number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. S-348

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Thornton farm is located at the end of a long farm lane that intersects MD 363 (Deal Island Road) one mile west of Princess Anne, Somerset County, Maryland. The farm borders the north bank of the Manokin River.

The farm complex consists of a turn of the century farmhouse, a large dairy/hay barn, a corn crib, and a family cemetery that has two of the most elaborate and unusual tombstones in Somerset County.

The farmhouse is a t-plan frame dwelling supported by a partially excavated cellar with a brick foundation. The main house and the various additions are uniformly covered with asbestos shingles, and the steeply pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Single-pane sash windows light the first and second floors, and diamond pane windows light the attic. A narrow brick stove stack rises through the north gable end. The interior has been converted to office space.

Standing north of the house is a bi-level board and batten frame dairy barn supported by poured concrete and brick foundation. The south wall has been rebuilt and covered with weatherboards. Defining the peak of the roof are two gabled vents with louvered openings. A concrete ribbed silo stands at the south end of the structure, and a concrete block milking room has been added to the west side. The first floor interior consists of two large spaces, the southern two thirds of the barn is used for dairy stanchons, while the northern third includes a through passage and crop storage space.

An ell-shaped corn crib stands due south of the barn and is supported by clay pot piers. The south section is covered with vertical slat siding, while the north ell has been covered with corrugated tin. Both sections have sheet tin roofs.

Located in the middle of the plowed field south of the modern ranch house is a small cemetery that contains two early eighteenth-century grave markers. The table stone is that of Alexander Brown, who inherited "Thornton" from Colonel David Brown around 1698. The tombstone bears the date 1712 and has an elaborately carved coat of arms. The sandstone monument is one of the earliest tombstones in Somerset County. Also located in the cemetery is an anomolous marker for Captain John Blaney, born in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He died on January 5, 1715. The most remarkable aspect of this tombstone is the New England type carving that decorates the headstone. A death skull flanked by wings heads the stone and stars set in a circle top the side panels. Down each side are breast motifs set between leaves.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. S-348

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

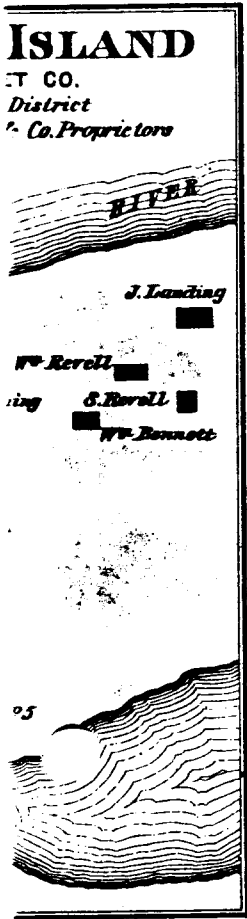
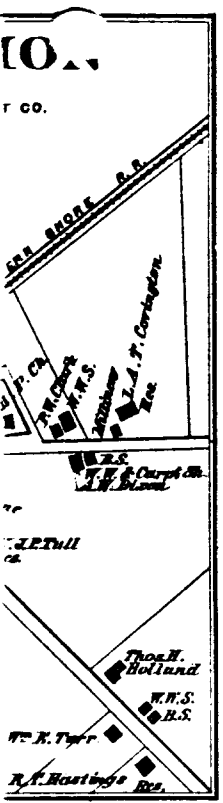
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

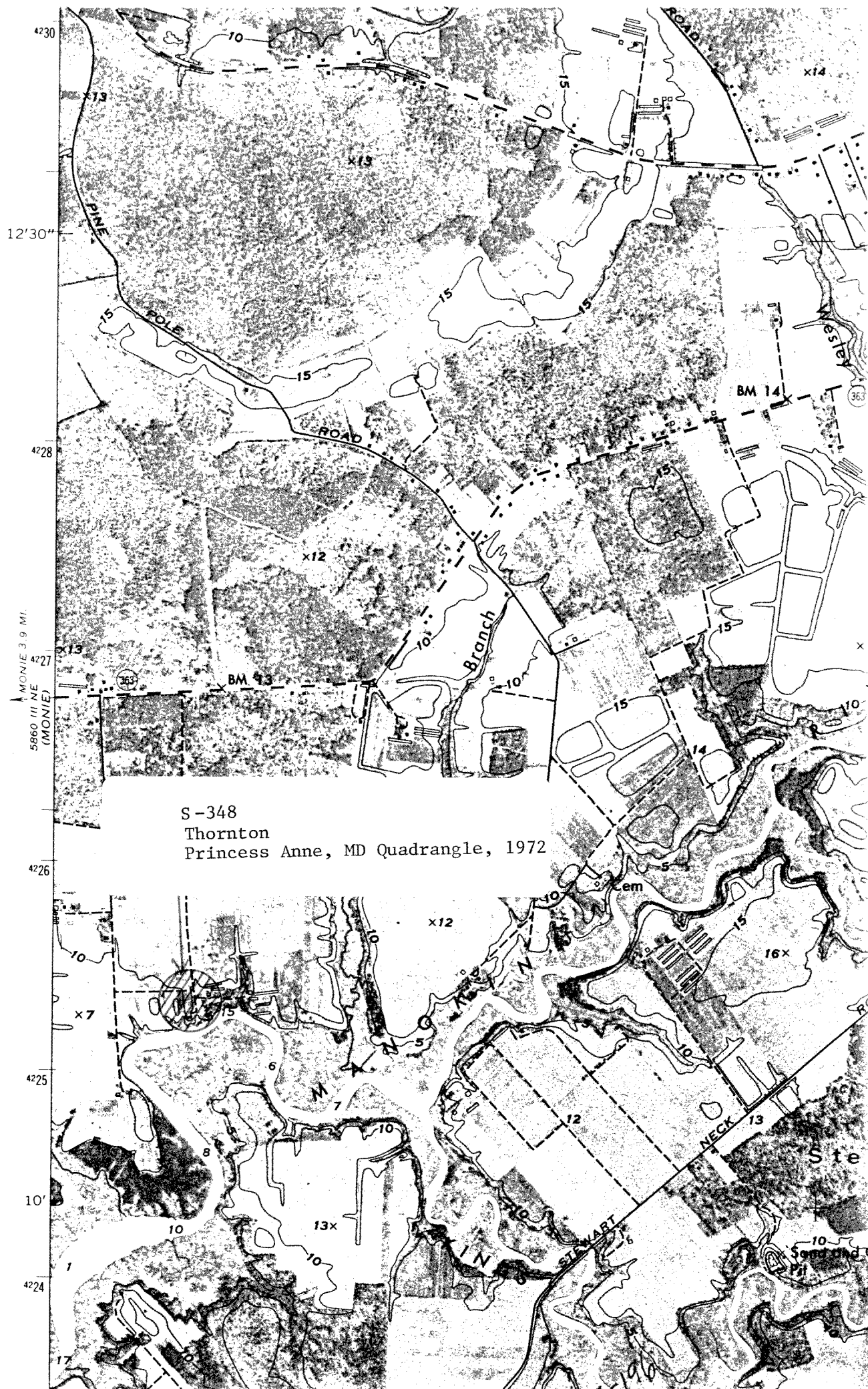
Most notable about "Thornton" farm is the survival of two early eighteenth-century grave markers; one with an elaborate coat of arms carved from sandstone and the other, a slate stone exhibiting New England style carving. Both stones were evidently imported into Somerset County. The farm buildings date to the late nineteenth century. The dairy/hay barn is one of the largest of its kind in the county.



# PRINCESS ANNE

Dist. No 1  
SOMERSET CO.





S-348  
Thornton  
Princess Anne, MD Quadrangle, 1972





Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Farmhouse

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Dairy Barn

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Corn Crib

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Footstone of Captain John Blaney

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust





Thornton

S-348

Princess Anne Vicinity, Somerset Co., Md.

Tombstone of Captain John Blaney

6/86, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust